

CONSULAR CONVENTION

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INCOMING TELEGRAM *Department of State*

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MOSCOW 3376.

1. SATIRICAL COMMENT LATEST ISSUE ZA RUBEZHOM ON SENATE REVIEW U.S.-USSR CONSULAR CONVENTION DEPICTS SECRETARY ASK LUKEWARM SUPPORTER OF CONVENTION AND AS NO PROPONENT OF U.S.-SOVIET IMPROVEMENT, AND CALLS ALLEGED POISON-PEN CAMPAIGN TO UNNERVE SENATORS RE CONVENTION PART OF FBI DIRECTOR HOOVER'S SUPPOSED STRATEGY AGAINST THIS AND ALL MEASURES DESIGNED TO PROMOTE U.S.-SOVIET CONTACTS. SECRETARY'S ADVOCACY OF CONVENTION CALLED RARE ROLE FOR HIM TO PLAY, AND "MR RUSK HIMSELF UNDERSTANDS FALSITY OF HIS POSITION". ADMINISTRATION NOW PRESSING FOR SENATE APPROVAL BECAUSE "THREE YEARS HAVE GONE BY AND CONVENTION STILL UNDER SENATE'S CONSIDERATION", SIGNING HAVING OCCURRED IN 1964 WHEN USG, INCLUDING SECRETARY, PROMISED SOLEMNLY TO PRESERVE "KENNEDY SPIRIT".

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2. WHILE ARTICLE REPORTS SECRETARY'S RECOMMENDATION OF CONVENTION TO SENATE AND CORRESPONDENCE EXCHANGE WITH HOOVER, IT CAUTIONS READER NOT TO DEDUCE FROM THIS CASE THAT HOOVER IS SOLE NEGATIVIST RE IMPROVEMENT U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS. "AS REGARDS ALL OTHER PROBLEMS CONCERNING RELATIONS WITH SOVIET UNION, MR RUSK AND MANY, A GREAT MANY 'LEGISLATIVE FATHERS' HOLD SAME VIEWPOINT AS HOOVER HOLDS RE CONSULAR CONVENTION". ALLEGED DISCOURAGEMENT BY SECRETARY OF INDIVIDUAL BUSINESSMEN WISHING ESTABLISH TRADE TIES WITH USSR OFFERED AS ONLY ILLUSTRATION OF SECRETARY'S SUPPOSED ATTITUDE.

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3. ARTICLE NOTEWORTHY AS FIRST SOVIET PRESS REFERENCE (OUTSIDE REPRINT FROM STATE OF UNION MESSAGE - - MOSCOW 3131) TO CONVENTION SINCE PRESIDENT'S OCT 7 SPEECH. ALSO REVEALS TO SOVIET READER THAT PRESIDENT'S PROGRAM FOR IMPROVED EAST-WEST RELATIONS MEETING WITH SOME OPPOSITION IN U.S. BUT NEVERTHELESS BEING PURSUED.

DECON ON RECEIPT.
THOMPSON

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State Dept. review completed

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